

Information Request DTE 1-4:

Please provide a list of marketers who, based on the Company's experience, meet the following criteria: (a) operate in the New England region; (b) are capable of providing winter supply; and (c) hold primary rights on the upstream pipelines serving NSTAR Gas.

Response:

In the Company's opinion, the list of creditworthy parties that meet the listed criteria is limited. Distrigas is the most prominent New England supplier with firm primary rights on Tennessee and on Algonquin. The Company meets with representatives from Distrigas on a regular basis in order to obtain pricing information about the various services that Distrigas provides.

Other creditworthy parties that have access to firm primary capacity in New England would include companies such as BP or Entergy Koch. These companies have agreements with several local distribution companies ("LDCs") to manage the upstream resources of those companies and might be sellers under certain conditions. However, resources procured from asset managers would typically have a commodity component in addition to a storage capacity or transportation component and would usually be market priced using, for example, an M3 basis to NYMEX or an M3 index price.

Finally, there are several retail marketers that have been assigned capacity under various New England states' unbundling programs. However, the capacity assigned to these companies is typically subject to recall by the releasing LDCs. Moreover, the long-term commitment of these companies to remain in the New England market has not been demonstrated.